



California Fair Political Practices Commission

June 15, 1988

Dorienne Hodge
811 Geary St., #411
San Francisco, CA 94109

Re: Our File No. I-88-219

Dear Ms. Hodge:

We have received your letter concerning the June 7, 1988 election.

In your letter, you complained that the ballot pamphlet contained various opinions concerning the initiative measures. These opinions are required by state law, which provides that the ballot pamphlet shall contain a copy of the arguments and rebuttals for and against each state initiative measure. (Government Code Sections 88001(c) and 88002(c).) The ballot pamphlet also must contain an impartial summary of each measure, prepared by the Legislative Analyst. (Government Code Section 88003.)

The Fair Political Practices Commission has no jurisdiction over the other matters discussed in your letter, such as voter registration, poll workers, or the content of media reporting. Accordingly, we have referred your letter to the Secretary of

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State's office and to the Registrar of Voters of the City and County of San Francisco, who have responsibility for the conduct of elections.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Griffiths
General Counsel

Kathryn E. Donovan
By: Kathryn E. Donovan
Counsel, Legal Division

811 GEARY ST. #411

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

7 JUNE 1988

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FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICE COMMISSION
528 J STREET, SUITE 800
P.O. BOX 870
SACRAMENTO, CA 95804

DEAR PERSON;

YESTERDAY I WENT TO VOTE AT 525
HYDE ST. TO VOTE. THE PRECINCT WAS
NUMBER 4867. I WAS GIVEN A NON-PARTISAN
BALLOT TO VOTE WITH BECAUSE I DECLINED
TO STATE THE PARTY OF MY PREFERENCE
ON MY VOTER'S REGISTRATION CARD.

ACTUALLY I DO NOT HAVE A PARTY OF
PREFERENCE. I AM A RATIONAL MINDED
PERSON WHO MAKES DECISIONS ON
INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN THE PARTY
THEY REPRESENT.

LAST YEAR I REGISTERED TO VOTE
DECLARING THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND
I DID NOT RECEIVE A VOTER'S REGISTRA-
TION CARD. THE CARD FOR AFFIDAVIT OF
REGISTRATION WAS RETURNED REQUEST-
ING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. I RETURNED
THE CARD BUT NEVER RECEIVED A
VOTER'S REGISTRATION CARD.

ON THE AFFIDAVIT OF REGISTRATION

3.

OBTAINING THEM BEFORE AND
IF THEY PUT THEM IN THE BALLOT BOX.

PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE
DICTATORS AT THE POLLS.

PERHAPS YOU CAN USE YOUR POSITION
TO STOP THE MEDIA FROM REPORTING THEIR
BIASED OPINIONS OF CANDIDATES AND
INITIATIVES. THEY ARE REPORTING THEIR
OPINIONS RATHER THAN THE FACTS.

THE VOTERS PAMPHLET FROM THE
SECRETARY OF STATE WAS PITIFUL THIS
YEAR. IT GAVE THE OPINIONS OF OTHER
PEOPLE RATHER THAN STATING WHAT THE
INITIATIVES ACTUALLY WERE.

I HOPE YOU DO SOMETHING SOON. ITS
GETTING HARDER TO DIFFERENTIATE
BETWEEN A DEMOCRACY AND COMMUNISM.

SINCERELY YOURS;
Serienne Dodge



Office of the Secretary of State
March Fong Eu

1230 J Street
Sacramento, California 95814

ELECTIONS DIVISION
(916) 445-0820

For Hearing and Speech Impaired
Only:
(800) 833-8683

June 27, 1988

Dorienne Hodge
811 Geary Street, #411
San Francisco, California 94109

Dear Ms. Hodge:

Your June 7, 1988 letter to the Fair Political Practices Commission has been referred to Secretary of State March Fong Eu in her capacity as California's chief elections officer. Secretary Eu has asked me to respond.

In your letter you expressed displeasure at being denied a partisan (political party) ballot in the June 7, Primary Election. As you may now know, voters who "decline to state" their party affiliation at the time they register are considered by law to be nonpartisan voters. All voter registration cards so advise registrants in the instruction portion of the card which corresponds to information blanks on the form. For your information, I enclose a voter registration card with the explanation regarding political party status highlighted in yellow.

In addition, you were concerned that pollworkers deposited your ballot in the ballot box for you. This is the procedure required by California Elections Code section 14246 which states:

"Having folded the ballot, the voter shall deliver it folded to a member of the precinct board, who shall then separate the slip containing the number from the ballot, hand the slip to the voter, and deposit the ballot in the ballot box in the presence of the voter."

Finally, you noted, again with displeasure, the opinions of proponents and opponents of ballot measures in the state ballot pamphlet. These ballot arguments are a required portion of the ballot pamphlet and are considered by many voters to be a useful guide to the pros and cons of complicated measures.

Should you wish to seek changes to these election laws, I would advise you to contact your local representatives to the State Legislature. Perhaps they would be willing to

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sponsor appropriate legislative solutions to the problems
you have encountered.

I hope this information is helpful. Please feel free to
contact me again if you have elections-related questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Seiler", written in a cursive style.

DEBORAH SEILER
Assistant to the Secretary of State
Elections and Political Reform

DS/jm

Enclosure

bcc: Kathryn E. Donovan